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Section II (Remarks)**A. Summary of Amendment to the Claims**

By the present Amendment, claims 1-2, 10, 12-13, 15, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include the features of claims 7 and 9, now cancelled. Claims 10, 12-13, 15 and 18 have been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

The amendments made herein thus are fully consistent with and supported by the originally-filed disclosure of this application. No new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132(a) has been introduced by the foregoing amendments.

B. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the October 12, 2007 Office Action, claims 1, 7, 9-15 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 of the present application has been amended herein to overcome such rejection, and claims 18-24 are either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1, as are claims 10-15 as amended. Additionally, claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled herein, thereby obviating such rejection as to such claims.

C. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the October 12, 2007 Office Action, the claims 1-4, 7, 9-15 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Syndbad (U.S. Patent No. 2,756,790; hereinafter "Syndbad").

Syndbad discloses a guard that is located on the cutting edge of the blade and whose main purpose is to protect the blade of the saw. The device discussed in the Syndbad reference is described as a protective device or guard for hand saws (see column 1, lines 1-2), which is

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contrary to applicants' support device. There is no indication that the device described in Syndbad is meant to serve any other purpose than to protect the cutting edge of the saw or that such guard is purposed to prevent flexing of the blade during sawing.

In the October 12, 2007 Office Action, the examiner considers that the blade support 10, as illustrated in Syndbad, can be pivotably attached to the dull edge of the blade; however, there is no discussion in Syndbad to indicate that such guard could be attached, pivotably or otherwise, to the upper edge of a blade. In fact, Syndbad discloses that the guard is slipped onto an end of the saw blade and is shifted longitudinally along the length of the cutting edge of the blade to enclose the toothed edge of the blade (see column 2, lines 42 and 49-51 of Syndbad).

Additionally, there is no disclosure in Syndbad to indicate that the guard device is intended to be used on the upper edge of the blade (i.e., the non-cutting edge of the saw) during sawing. As amended herein, claims 1 and 2 require that applicants' support device "includes attachment means by which the support is pivotably attached or attachable to the saw" (claim 1) and "includes attachment means by which the support is pivotably attached to the saw" (claim 2), thereby further distinguishing applicants' claimed invention from the protective device disclosed in Syndbad.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all of Applicants' pending claims 1-4, 10-15, and 18-24 are patentably distinguished over the art, and in form and condition for allowance. The examiner is requested to favorably consider the foregoing, and to responsively issue a Notice of Allowance. If any issues require further resolution, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 419-9350 to discuss same.

Respectfully submitted,



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